

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THIS WEEK.

MONDAY, 15TH APRIL.

We are glad to see it stated that a final endeavour is to be made to come to some understanding with the Thibetans, for which purpose Mr. Ware Edgar, Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government, and Mr. A. W. Paul, C. I. E., Deputy Commissioner of Darjiling, are on their way to the frontier.

THE fire at Surat has not even yet been quite mastered, several fresh outbreaks having occurred within the last few days. The relief measures carried out by the Bombay Government have prevented any great suffering among the townspeople.

THE Secretary of State has notified to the Government of India that in future no officer holding a permanent appointment under Government, whether pensionable or not, is to be allowed to serve as a Director of any Bank or public company without previous reference being made to the Home Government.

A FRENCHMAN, named Faurie, employed in a gunpowder manufactory, has been arrested for writing to Prince Bismarck, and offering to sell the secret of the L. bel powder. He says he meant to play a practical joke on the Lord Chancellor.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed by the Home Department of the Government of India to inquire into the methods employed by the Statistical Department under the Surg-on-General to the Government of India. The present system has been subject to adverse criticism in the House of Commons. The Committee meets this month at Simla.

THE report of the Dewan Luxman Jagannath on the administration of the State of Baroda for 1887, which has just been issued, contains some interesting material. Generally speaking, the State seems to have been excellently administered. Her industries are increasing, there appears to be no serious amount of crime in the State, education is progressing well, and the people are fairly prosperous and content. At the same time, the relations with the Residency and the neighbouring British Officers and Political Agents are as cordial and satisfactory as ever. The settlement of almost all the Giras and Watna claims and of boundary disputes, and the continued practical adoption of the recognised arrangement that the British representative at Baroda should take action on behalf of the British Government in regard to matters situated within Baroda territory, to the exclusion of neighbouring Political Officers, who in past times, claimed to exercise a direct right of interference in support of the persons residing in the territory under their supervision, has prevented many contentions which formerly cropped up. Improved internal administration also has not a little contributed to the same result. The revenue of the year from all sources was Rs. 1,52,28,962 (Rs. 1,04,43,665 being land revenue alone) and the disbursements Rs. 1,56,18,813. Compared with the previous year there has been a decrease in the receipts, and an increase in the expenditure to the extent of Rs. 5,28,842 and 18,48,659, respectively.

THE Italian newspapers advocate the Italian occupation of Asmara, or otherwise the abandonment of Massowah.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL'S Bill dealing with corruption in public bodies has been published. It relates to officers and servants of a public body as much as to members. If any such person corruptly promise, solicit, pay, receive, or agree to pay or receive, by or for himself, or by or for any other person, any gift, loan, fee, reward, or advantage whatever in respect of any matter in which the public body is concerned, he is to be guilty of a misdemeanour. The Bill is comprehensive as applying to "any contract or work, or any purchase, sale, or lease of land or property, or any other matter or transaction or proposed transaction whatsoever." And the person who corruptly gives, promises, or offers to the member, officer, or servant, is to be equally guilty of a misdemeanour. For committing a misdemeanour under this Bill, there is to be a liability to be imprisoned for a period not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, and with or without a fine not exceeding £500. The offender may also be ordered

to pay to the public body the amount or value received by him or any part of it. Moreover, he is to be incapable of holding or of being elected to "public office" for seven years. On a second offence this disqualification for office is to be made permanent, and his name struck off the register of voters of Parliament or for any other election. The Court may also forfeit the claim of an offending officer or servant of a public body to any compensation or pension to which he would otherwise be entitled. A "public body" is defined as "any corporation, board, commissioners, vestry, or other body acting under and for the purposes of any Act relating to Local Government or the public health, or to any other public purposes or objects, including Acts relating to Municipal Corporations, the Metropolis, or the City of London." And "public" means any office of employment as a member, officer or servant of such a public body.

TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL.

THE *Behar Herald* states:—"A very important measure has been initiated by the enlightened Dewan of the Dumraon Raj. We read that Mr. Finucane, Director of Agriculture, Bengal, with a party of Behar gentlemen, European and Native, recently visited Burmah, in order to prospect lands suitable for Behar cultivators, with a view to encourage emigration from the congested districts of Behar. The party visited Mandalay and other places. The Dewan of the Dumraon Raj and other Native gentlemen applied for some 30,000 acres of land in Lower Burmah for Behar cultivators, and the terms of the grant have been arranged. A projected visit to the Ohindwin Valley, which is supposed to be suitable for wheat cultivation, has been postponed till the cold weather. Meanwhile, the proposed rules for grants of waste lands to Beharis, which have been discussed fully with the Burmah Government will, it is expected, be sanctioned and published."

FURTHER musical honours have been conferred upon Rajah Sir Sourendro Mohun Tagore, Kt., Doctor of Music. His Majesty the King of Denmark has been pleased to appoint the Rajah a Commander of the Order of Daneborg, of the second class.

PHYSICIANS agree that the poison conveyed by human teeth is one of the most annoying that they have to deal with. One of them writes to the *Medical Register*:—"I have under my attention severe and most complicated cases of blood poisoning in which the patient had but slightly abraded the hand in the course of a fight by striking the knuckles against the teeth of his opponent. I have known hands thus poisoned only saved from amputation by the application of all the resources of science."

THE test case to determine the eligibility of ladies to serve on the London County Council Board under the Local Government Act has resulted in the Queen's Bench deciding against the election of Lady Sandhurst.

THERE is, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times*, no end yet to the influx here of alarming news from the Afghan-Bokharan frontier. After a little pause, the *Novoe Vremya* and *Novosti* again published disquieting articles which show that they have got wind of some of the telegraphic intelligence from Transcaspia that is almost daily being suppressed as exaggerated or groundless. The way in which the senders of news from Transcaspia attempt to keep up these war alarms, in spite of official assurances from the side of India as well as of Russia that there is no increase of danger, is very extraordinary. Some explain it as a trick on the part of certain persons to force the necessity of constructing a branch line of railway from Chardjui to Kerki, and in this connection the latter place is represented as the future military headquarters of Transcaspia instead of Askabad.

A NEW departure in "Beauty Shows" is announced at Vienna, Schwender's Establishment, Tunkhaus, in the suburbs, is getting up a competition of masculine beauty. Four prizes will be given as follows:—One to the handsomest man; one to the most killing moustache; one to the largest nose; and one to the biggest bald head.

THE Punjab Police Conference held at Amritsar, for the purpose of discussing the adoption of uniform

measures for the suppression of crime, with reference to the criminal tribes of the Punjab, has concluded its sitting; but its report has not yet been published.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL.

MAJOR MELLIS, on special duty in connection with the armies of the Feudatory States, is now at Nahan, inspecting the troops of His Highness the Maharajah of Sirmoor.

THE deaths from famine and fever in China have now reached appalling proportions. Numbers of destitute peasants are committing suicide rather than face the certainty of lingering death. It is still three months before harvest, and in the meantime extensive districts are absolutely without food.

A question has been asked in the House of Commons as to some remarkable increases of salary given by Sir Lepel Griffin to certain native officials employed in the Gwalior State. In one case a man getting Rs 100 was granted an increase to Rs. 1,200; in another case an increase was made from Rs. 400 to Rs. 2,000, in a third from Rs 500 to Rs. 1,500. There were, Mr. Bradlaugh alleged, many similar cases. Before Sir Lepel Griffin interfered with the management of the State there was an annual surplus of 11 lakhs. At present with an increase in revenue of 11 lakhs there was an annual deficit of 7 lakhs. The Secretary of State admitted the facts to be as stated, but said he saw no reason to interfere.

IN answer to another question Sir John Gorst said that the Cantonment Act had not become law, and that no regulations are at present in force in Cantonments with respect to prostitution.

HERE is a paragraph giving the names of the line of rulers through whom Queen Victoria, our beloved Empress and the simple-hearted daughter of the wise Duke and Duchess of Kent came to the English throne. Queen Victoria is the niece of William IV., who was the brother of George IV., who was the son of George III, who was the grandson of George II., who was the son of George I., who was the cousin of Anne, who was the sister-in-law of William III., who was the son-in-law of James II., who was the brother of Charles II., who was the son of Charles I., who was the son of James I., who was the cousin of Elizabeth, who was the sister of Mary, who was the sister of Edward VI, who was the son of Henry VIII, who was the son of Henry VII., who was the cousin of Richard III, who was the uncle of Edward V, who was the son of Edward IV, who was the cousin of Henry VI., who was the son of Henry V, who was the son of Henry IV, who was the cousin of Richard II, who was the grandson of Edward III, who was the son of Edward II, who was the son of Edward I, who was the son of Henry III, who was the son of John, who was the brother of Richard I, who was the son of Henry II, who was the cousin of Stephen, who was the cousin of Henry I, who was the brother of William Rufus, who was the son of William the Conqueror 800 years ago. Her son, the Prince of Wales, will be King of England and Emperor of India. Queen Victoria was the first to unite the two countries under one civil government, though England has controlled India for hundreds of years. England and Scotland were united under King James the first, because he was heir and inherited both thrones. Queen Victoria inherited the throne of England, but acquired that of India; her son and heir will inherit both.

ANOTHER town in Upper Burma, Myothit, has been attacked by dacoits and reduced to ashes; the military police guard perished in the flames, but they had succeeded in saving all the Government property.

A NEW and ingenious form of telephone has been invented, consisting of a receiver and transmitter in one. While the receiving part of the contrivance is held to the ear, the transmitter, which is in the form of a projecting plug, presses against the exterior of the throat of the operator, and takes up from that organ the mechanical vibrations caused by speech, which are conveyed as undulating impulses of electricity to the distant correspondent by line-wires.

Two guns of a new type have been placed in the *Sinope*, the recently constructed Russian ironclad. They are twelve inch pieces, each weighs fifty tons, and throws a projectile weighings nearly one ton. The powder charge is 270 lbs., and the initial velocity 300 metres, while the distance of the range is over thirteen miles. Only two men are required to attend to each gun, as it is worked by powerful hydraulic machinery.

THURSDAY, 18TH APRIL.

A WHOLE gang of female poisoners has been arrested in the town of Slaviansk. These women were in conspiracy to murder their husbands, and generally to do all in their power to reduce the male married population of their town. M. Outine—a St. Petersburg barrister—retained for the defence, has expressed his opinion that these women belong to a fanatical religious sect.

The following interesting anecdote about the late Mr. John Bright, while yet very young in years, is related by our contemporary of the *Bombay Guardian*:—John Bright's oratory did not come by chance. It is related of the great Greek orator Demosthenes that he was naturally a bad speaker with a weak voice and stuttering utterance but by going down to the sea shore on a stormy day, and, whilst addressing an imaginary audience, endeavouring to make his voice heard above the waves, and by various other means, he overcame his natural infirmities, and was at last able to harangue the multitudes of Athens. The only "sea-shore" at Rochdale was the banks of the muddy little river *Roch* from which the town was named, so John Bright was not able to follow the example of Demosthenes in that matter. The course he took, however, was equally efficacious. After his father's millhands had left, he used to take a book at one end of one of the long loomrooms, whilst a stern old Quaker clerk from his father's office would stand at the other end. John would read, and the clerk would criticize, which he was a good hand at doing, being in the habit of bestowing much more blame than praise. He would sometimes, however, be overcome unawares by his pupil's proficiency, and enthusiastically shout out—"Well done John! Well done, John!" Coming from such a source, this was greater music in the youth's ears, than the plaudits in after years of the crowded thousands in the Free Trade and Bingley Halls.

The Imperial Russian palace at Oarskoe Seloe is the largest thing of the kind in existence. It stands in grounds which are 18 miles in circumference; when the Czar is residing there it is guarded by 7,000 soldiers and Policemen; and it contains a thousand rooms. One room is walled with lapislazuli; and another with mother-of pearl; another with amber. The banquetting hall is walled and ceiled with gold. One of the great features of the palace is the collection of malachite. It was at Oarskoe Seloe that the Czar administered a well deserved snub to a purse-proud American who pulled out a snuffbox of malachite and gold, and officiously handed it to the Czar, who opened it, took a pinch and as he returned the box, goodnaturedly remarked that it was a very pretty one. "You should understand that it is solid gold, and real malachite," said the American, "and I guess it cost a lot." "I suspect that it did," replied the Czar. "I know how expensive malachite is. Some of the mantelpieces in the neighbouring rooms are made of it; and there is a malachite fountain in one of the conservatories."

PROSPERITY are in circulation for starting a paper mill in Palhally, three miles from Seringpatam on the banks of the Canvery. The required capital is Rs. 3,10,000 and this is divided into 3,100 shares of Rs. 100 each. The Mysore Government have given a very material encouragement to the venture by taking up 200 shares, and also by agreeing to buy all the paper required for the State from the Mill for a period of five years.

We learn that their Excellencies Lord and Lady Lansdowne were much pleased with the hospitality shown them by His Highness the Maharajah of Patialla at Pinjore. They not only personally tendered their acknowledgments to Bukshi Gunda Singh, the Commander-in-Chief, and Lalla Bhugwan Dass; but also sent through Lord William Beresford a highly complimentary letter to the Council of Regency.

COUNT Herbert Bismarck visited England partly with a view to settle the disputes in connection with Samoa and the East Coast of Africa, and partly to arrange the details of the German Emperor's visit in the summer. The ships that are to take part in the naval manoeuvres will assemble at Spithead early in July, if the Emperor William is then in England.

The *Nieute Wiener Tagblatt* professes to have received information of an attempt against the lives of the Czar

and Czarina on the occasion of their journey from St. Petersburg to Gatschina, last week. Two old rails are said to have been laid across the line not far from Gatschina station. The driver of the Imperial train, however, noticed the obstruction in time to pull up. Several arrests have been made in St. Petersburg.

FRIDAY, 19TH APRIL.

THE recent discovery of a dynamite bomb-manufactory in Zurich is leading to the unravelling of a conspiracy of unexpected proportions. It is considered as established that a vast plot has been organized throughout Russia for the perpetration of a series of attempts against the life of the Czar and other persons of the highest rank. Numerous arrests have been made at St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kieff, Kharkoff, Odessa and other towns, especially in Southern Russia. The names of several persons who have been arrested have transpired, and the Jewish element seems to be strongly represented amongst them.

THE *Ship Pae*, a Chinese vernacular paper, states:—"The Chinese have a custom that when a woman gives birth to a triplet she must report the matter to the authorities and they on their part will present her with three little coats—one red, one yellow, and one green. These coats, she must put on the infants in the dark, and those who get the red and yellow coats will be exalted, while the one with the green coat will be ignoble. Such events are, however, of the rarest occurrence and are regarded as marvels of nature."

THE *Boston Transcript* says:—"The sale of Pandita Ramabai's 'The High Caste Hindoo Woman' has brought her the sum of £2,895, which she has expended in electrotypes for the school-books she has been compiling in her leisure moments. In many cases the illustrations are from original photographs, or from drawings made under her personal supervision. She has in preparation a primer, five reading books, a geography, and a natural history."

THE Madras High Court (the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Wilkinson) has confirmed a conviction and sentences of five and four years' rigorous imprisonment passed by the Sessions Judge of Coimbatore on two native constables of police for ill-treating a woman in order to extort a confession. The case for the prosecution was that the prisoners beat the woman unmercifully.

DISTRESS in Ganjam, to the south of Orissa, is assuming grave proportions. Active measures are being taken by the local authorities to provide work for the poor, who have left their homes, and are flocking to the large centres in search of work or food.

A somewhat complicated question in relation to the stamping of receipts has been before the Madras Government on the motion of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, who wished to know, amongst other things, whether duplicate receipts are required to be stamped, and by whom the stamp should be supplied, whether by the payer or the payee. The matter was referred to the Government Solicitor, who expressed the opinion that the Examiner would not be justified in stamping unstamped receipts after they have been executed, whatever the circumstances under which they may have come into his possession may be. Section 44 of the Stamp Act does not cover a receipt, and there is no other section in the Act which provides for the stamping of documents by private individuals after execution. If receipts are executed in duplicate, the duplicate as well as the original should be stamped before execution, and a person who executes an unstamped duplicate receipt commits an offence against the stamp laws. The duty being 1 anna, the document cannot be subsequently stamped by a Collector, so as to render it receivable in evidence. There is no provision of the Stamp Act under which a duplicate receipt can be called for as of right, or which lays down by whom the duty chargeable on such a document should be paid; but whereas the duplicate is executed merely as a matter of convenience to a department, such duty should be borne by such department. The Government concurred with the Government Solicitor, and have ruled that all receipts must be stamped before or at the time of execution. Receipts not so stamped cannot be validated by being subsequently stamped, and Section 44 of the Stamp Act does not cover receipts.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* is responsible for the following:—"No public promulgation of the future form of administration for Cashmere has yet been made, but we understand that it will be modelled upon the plan which has worked so well at Gwalior—a responsible native Government, bound to consult and be guided by the Resident in the interests of the State; not a Council working directly under an Englishman."

THE *Bombay Gazette* says:—"The sad fate that condemns the greater number of lepers to subsist on the charity of the public is deserving of compassion, al-

though it involves great danger to the health of the community; and it is difficult to blame those unfortunates who work where they can and sell fruit or make bread or fold cigars. Victor Hugo in his 'Les Misérables' never sounded such depths of human woe as are plumbed by the unfortunates who have to choose between beggary which involves their holding out their ulcered hands on the high roads and working for a pittance in a bakery or in a cigar factory. They are not to blame, for no third course is open to them. The Government and the public have a common responsibility and a common interest in adopting measures which will at all events take lepers off the street and give to those who seek to eke out a living by breadmaking or rolling cigars or selling fruit, some less harmful means of prolonging a hapless and hopeless existence."

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL.

THE plan of selling the street sweepings has been adopted in many of the Municipalities in Madras, with such a favourable result that in one of them, Kurnool, the receipts amounted to Rs. 82 per annum for every thousand of the population, and largely contributed to pay for the conservancy carts. This success has been considered sufficient to justify the Madras Government in calling the attention of all Municipalities to the addition they might make to their income by thus disposing of refuse, and at the same time benefit the cultivators by providing them with a supply of good manure.

PEOPLE have been much amused in Paris, says the correspondent of the *Times*, with a report brought from the other side of the Channel, according to which General de Gallifet tried to get the Prince of Wales to dine with General Boulanger, and did not succeed in consequence of the intervention of Marquess of Salisbury. General de Gallifet is one of the most determined adversaries of General Boulanger. During the Ministry of the latter he was deprived of every advantage that could be taken from him. To compensate for this he was promoted to the rank of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour after the fall of General Boulanger. A very different version of what took place is given. General de Gallifet, having heard that an attempt was being made to get the Prince of Wales to dine with General Boulanger, declared that the thing was inconsiderate, and that those who attempted to bring it about were the Prince's enemies.

THE Chief Commissioner of Burmah has determined to proceed against the Poukaw Tsawbwa, a Kachin Chief living in the hills about 30 miles east of Bhamo. An expedition was sent against this Chief in 1886, but returned without effecting anything. His people have lately become troublesome, coming down to Mansi, and aiding the Shan dacoit band who lately disturbed the Upper Sinkan.

FROM experiments on animals and on the human subject, Signor Poppi concludes that uralum induces sleep more quickly and more certainly than any other known hypnotic. He says that it causes no alteration of the blood-pressure nor bad effects of any kind. Uralum has been given in various cases of heart disease, in insanity, hysteria, and other nervous complaints, and always with the best results, even when other hypnotics had failed.

CAN you murder a dead man? That was the question which the High Court Judges at Madras were called upon to decide. At the first blush there seems to be a good deal to be said on both sides. The circumstances of the case, like the problem before the Judges, were somewhat curious. In a little village in the Ganjam district, a certain man was recently found murdered. A prisoner was arrested on suspicion and, when brought before the second class magistrate, confessed that he had murdered the man by cutting off his head. Further investigation, however, showed that when the accused thus murdered his unfortunate compatriot, the latter was already dead, another man having given him a fatal blow with a club. The prisoner in a second confession—this time before the Sessions Judge—stated that up to a certain point this was so, but that believing the man to have survived the first blow, he cut off his head to make sure. The Sessions Judge accepted this statement, convicted the man of murder, and sentenced him to death, subject of course, to the confirmation of the High Court. The High Court investigated the appeal and found that in their opinion the evidence against the prisoner was not very conclusive, and that the head of the murdered man, notwithstanding the prisoner's confession, might have been torn off by wild beasts. Accordingly, they reversed the sentence and ordered the man to be discharged. The judgment is, in effect, that a dead man cannot be murdered, and that the intention physically carried out to the best of the will and power of a would-be murderer does not constitute the deed. Evidently the Judges have been wrestling with a rather ticklish question.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1889.

MR. CRAWFORD AND MR. BEAMES— A CONTRAST.

THE Secretary of State's decision in the case of Mr. Crawford, of Bombay, has just been published, and it bears out the forecast which the public had formed about it. The inquiry in the matter has been thorough. The Commission which sat on it was a remarkably strong one, and it held no less than 67 sittings, and examined a large number of witnesses. The charges against Mr. Crawford came under the two heads of corruption and of improper borrowing. The counts were many and of very varied character, but they came all under the two heads mentioned. The conclusion of the Commission, arrived at after a careful and prolonged consideration of the evidence, is that Mr. Crawford is not guilty of the first charge, but guilty of the second. The evidence under the first head is entirely circumstantial and somewhat discordant, and under the circumstance, unity of opinion cannot be expected. Commenting on it the Secretary of State very aptly says: "whatever might have been my opinion if I had been called upon to decide this matter upon printed evidence alone I feel bound to attach great weight to the fact that they have been enquired into by a very strong Commission, the members of which during a sitting of no less than 67 days had an advantage which neither the Government of Bombay nor the Secretary of State could have of seeing and hearing the witnesses, and that in their opinion none of the charges of corruption is established." This is exactly what the public anticipated. There was no direct evidence of corruption, though the circumstances disclosed a violent presumption. Under the Scotch law the case was one that would be properly disposed of with a verdict of "not proven," but as under the English law, there is no distinction made between "not proven" and "not guilty," the latter appears to be the right finding. We feel that had the complaint been limited to the first charge the finding would have been an awkward one for many reasons. The finding on the second charge, however, leaves no room for any dissatisfaction on the ground of any failure of justice. There was no question about Mr. Crawford's improperly borrowing money from those with whom the law requires he should not have any loan transaction, and under the express provision of the law, and on his own admission in some cases, he has been very properly dismissed from the service. No punishment short of dismissal would have been adequate to the requirements of the case. Men in the position of Divisional Commissioners have to preserve a much higher character for rectitude of conduct than officers and men of lower standing. The slightest failure on their part is much more reprehensible than in others. The good name of Government is to a great extent dependent not only on the absolute rectitude of their conduct, but also on the purity of their reputation. They should be not only just, but, like Caesar's wife, open to no suspicion. For this it is that they enjoy much higher pay and emoluments than even the commander of an army, and the purity of their conduct should be maintained, not only by large pay, but by condign punishment on default. Bearing this in mind, we believe that in the interest of justice and discipline the decision of the Secretary of State will be received by the public at large as in every way right and proper. We can easily conceive that several personal friends of Mr. Crawford and some members of the Civil Service will complain of undue severity; but none will venture to allege that it is unjust.

This decision stands in strange contrast with what has just seen the light on this side of India. The case we refer to is that of Mr. Beames. He, like Mr. Crawford, was accused of extensive borrowing for a long series of years from persons living in the districts under his jurisdiction, and contravening the terms of the very law which makes Mr. Crawford forfeit his office. There was, of course, no charge against him of

corruption; but as the charge of corruption in the case of Mr. Crawford has completely broken down the parallelity between the case of Mr. Crawford and that of Mr. Beames remains perfectly undisturbed. Both have been highly trusted officers of Government; both were employed as governors of districts and with the special duty of carrying out the laws of Government among the men placed under them; and both have been found guilty of systematically acting against the law; but the way they have been treated is markedly different. Mr. Crawford has been dismissed the service, and Mr. Beames has been just promoted to the highest civil office open to men of his grade under the Lieutenant Governor of this province. It is said in justification of Mr. Beames that his financial embarrassments are due to literary undertakings which are of great interest, but which the public have failed to appreciate. Were such the case, it would amount to no palliation of his offence, much less to a justification of it. He was employed on Rs. 3,300 a month, to look after the administration of the country, and not to fritter away his time in philological dissertations on the peculiarities of local dialects. We, however, deny that his embarrassment was due to the two books which have been published by him. Assuming that even a single copy of either of them has not sold, and that he had to pay the cost of the entire edition, his losses would not come up to a total of Rs. 5,000; whereas his debts at one time or other amounted to many thousands. In this respect what we have to complain of most is that the Government of Bengal have from the beginning done every thing to hush the matter up. They held no public enquiry; never took the public into confidence; published no papers, reports or explanations, in the face of the most scandalous charges repeatedly published by the Native press permitted no prosecution for libel or defamation against the press; on the contrary backed the charges by temporarily removing the accused from the Board of Revenue in defiance of public opinion. It is said in justification of Sir Stuart Bayley that in his letter to the Government of India he has stated that if had the choice he would never allow Mr. Beames to come back to the Board, and that he has been over-ruled by Lord Dufferin. This rumour is, however, doubtful. As the responsible Governor of a Province, it is unlikely that a decided expression of opinion on his part would have been summarily set aside by Lord Dufferin, and, what is more, report has it that Lord Lansdowne has subscribed to the opinion of his predecessor. Under the circumstances it is to be supposed that Mr. Beames and his friends have somehow worked out a case which has met with the approval of two successive Viceroys. This is a matter of grave importance; it concerns the fair fame of Government as regards justice and impartiality. Judged by the facts which the Government has disclosed the public has the alternative of believing that, either Mr. Crawford has been very harshly dealt with, or Mr. Beames has been rewarded for the very thing for which Mr. Crawford has been punished.

As regards Sir Stuart Bayley it is due to his reputation as a just and impartial governor that he should publish to the world the details of the part which he has taken in an affair which cannot but create a scandal among his subjects. The natives of this country cannot but put an awkward construction on the motives of Government, and the only way to remove it, as regards him, is to publish his minute along with the explanation of Mr. Beames. We trust that he would be able also to obtain the sanction of the Government of India to publish the remarks and orders of the two Viceroys on the subject. In England such a publication would be looked upon as a matter of course, and the Minister would create a serious scandal who would rise against it, and in India publication would only be a fair course to pursue. We lately remarked, that owing to circumstances which perhaps Sir Stuart had no power to control, there have been several cases in which the offences of Civil Servants have been compromisingly dealt with, and we trust that Sir Stuart will not give us cause to believe that he is not above the weakness of extending the ægis of his protection over offenders. We do trust that we may look upon him as the equal of Lord Reay in the matter of impartial justice.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION II.

WE have in our previous article on this subject shown that the encouraging features in Indian finance, the most important of which is the elasticity of the ordinary revenue, sink into absolute insignificance when compared with the positive dangers and difficulties besetting it. These dangers and difficulties are, indeed, so grave that the Government is bound to do all that lies in its power to place the finances of the Empire upon a sound and satisfactory footing. It must be remembered that besides the dangers and difficulties of a general nature, such as war, famine, fall in the value of the rupee and reduction in the opium revenue, the Finance Minister tells us that we must also anticipate some falling off in revenue in the immediate future from two special causes. In the current year the Government of India has been enabled to make the two ends meet and exhibit a trifling surplus by levying a contribution of nearly three quarters of a crore from Local Governments. Of this amount the Supreme Government receives half a crore for this year only, and the Finance Minister says that unless other arrangements can be made, we must be prepared to accept a reduction of 50 lakhs in the Estimates of 1890-91. Now, it is evident that the Supreme Government cannot always place the provinces under contribution and meet its demands by a system of "benevolences". This was, no doubt, the policy which the Secretary of State, acting under the advice of the Strachey Brothers who guide him in all matters relating to finance and public works, recommended to the Government of Lord Dufferin. The late Viceroy was quite ready to give effect to the views of Lord Cross, and with that object a scheme was devised by Mr. Westland and embodied in the well-known circular of 2nd October last. It seems that the scheme which it adopted, would have reduced the decentralization system into a perfect farce, and cannot be carried out in its entirety. Lord Lansdowne, in his remarkable speech in Council on the 29th ultimo, said: "When I arrived in India that scheme still held the field, and representatives of the principal Provincial Governments had been invited to meet the predecessor of my hon'ble friend in this city and to confer with them in regard to the proposals contained therein. The conference took place and it disclosed two most important facts. The first of these was that the Hon'ble Mr. Westland, after full discussion with the provincial delegates, came to the conclusion that some of the proposals, and amongst them those which had been regarded as the most important and essential features of the project, ought not to be insisted upon. We became aware in the next place that the representatives of the provinces very much preferred the simple and unscientific methods which my hon'ble friend has adopted to the more elaborate and ingenious procedure by which the Government of India had designed to place 'the Provinces under contribution'. But it is clear that the Supreme Government will not always find it possible to establish financial equilibrium by calling upon the Provincial Governments to contribute towards its necessities; and we have no hesitation whatever in saying that even if such a course was always practicable, it would not certainly be desirable. We must not forget that the new Provincial contracts made in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee have left the Local Governments barely enough to meet the absolute necessities of administrative existence and have brought the era of provincial improvements to a close. It should be carefully borne in mind that temporary causes have given the Government of India an additional revenue of upwards of a crore in the current year, which is not permanent and which will be largely reduced in future years, and will ultimately disappear altogether.

The question naturally arises: what should the Government of India do in these circumstances. It is obvious that our rulers cannot avert war and famine, or put a stop to the fall in exchange and the reduction of the revenue from opium. These are absolutely beyond their control. But the Government can certainly do much towards placing the finances of the Empire upon

a sound and satisfactory footing by carefully nursing its revenues and cutting down all expenditure not absolutely necessary. Referring to the Patwari Bill which was before the Council when the Budget was discussed, Lord Lansdowne pertinently observed:—"The case of the Bill before us shows how much easier it is to surrender a source of income than to get it back again." This remark has a very wider significance indeed, and it behoves our rulers to keep it steadily in view. We have always maintained the view and lost no opportunity to insist upon it, that the remission of taxation recklessly carried out by Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring seven years ago, had permanently crippled the Indian finances. The measures then adopted involved a wanton sacrifice of revenue to the extent of three crores. We said that the Government would find out the grave blunder it had committed and events have shown that we were no false prophets. Two of the taxes surrendered in 1882 have been re-introduced, and if the import duties have not been re-imposed, it is simply because no English Ministry, Liberal or Conservative, would for the sake of the unrepresented and dumb millions of India, who are not possessed of any political influence, care to lose the Lancashire vote. But even here the Government has been obliged to fill the gap caused by the abolition of the import duties by the re-imposition of the "odious" Income-Tax. It is idle to hope that the British Cabinet will permit the Government of India to revive the import duties. Such a measure must unfortunately be regarded as beyond the range of practical politics so long as the people of this country cannot make themselves heard. It has been well said that the British Parliament never does a thing because it is just, but because it cannot be helped. The Government of India should not, however, surrender any single source of income which it at present possesses. The Brothers Strachey who, as we have said above, guide Lord Cross in all matters relating to finance and public works, have persuaded his lordship to urge upon the Government of India the desirability of reducing the Salt-tax to its former level and abolishing the export duties on rice. We hope very earnestly that Lord Lansdowne will strongly oppose all such proposals. Lord Northbrook resigned the Viceroyalty rather than be a party to the remission of the cotton duties—a measure which, he rightly pointed out, aimed at making a present of a million of Indian revenues to the cotton lords of Lancashire. The relief which the reduction of the salt tax afforded to the poorer classes was so infinitesimally small that it was scarcely appreciable. We doubt whether the reduction effected in 1882 lessened the average peasant's expenditure on salt by even 4 annas a year. Our rulers who were so anxious to afford this relief to the ryots by lowering the salt duties did not hesitate, by passing the Patwari Cess Bill, to add a new impost to the burden of the tenants of the North-Western Provinces—the poorest peasantry in India. This impost which is a direct tax of one per cent. on the rent of the ryot Lord Cross felt no qualms of conscience in sanctioning; but his Lordship's heart is touched to the quick by the sufferings which he imagines the enhancement of the salt duty has caused to the poorer classes of the Indian population. Can sentimental philanthropy, we would like to ask, go further?

ONE-SIDED LEGISLATION.

THE secret of the feeble and one-sided character of the Cooly Act passed by the Bengal Council, on Saturday last, will be explained by the despatch of the Government of India on the subject dated the 22nd January last. As President of the Executive Council Lord Lansdowne has signed this important despatch to Lord Cross; but we are not prepared to do his Lordship the injustice of believing that it contains his Lordship's mature deliberations on the subject, for his Lordship is new to the country and cannot have had all the facts placed before him impartially. It is unreasonable to expect that within a few days of His Excellency's assumption of the reins of Government, he should be able to form clear and independent judgment of his own

upon matters which have been agitating the public for some considerable time past.

The despatch which was the prelude to the legislation above referred to, speaks of a Despatch of the Secretary of State in 1886, the nature of which does not seem to be very clear. The upshot of the whole thing, however, was that interference with Act I of 1882 was not thought desirable at the time, as it was necessary to "avoid the agitation and unsettlement which might be caused by re-opening discussion on the principles of the measure." We are unable to appreciate the logic of this proposition and should in our simplicity have thought, that granted the desirability or necessity of a measure it should be carried out independently of considerations of "agitation" or "unsettlement." But our legislators evidently do not think so when the weal or woe of poor coolies only is concerned.

The "further special report" which the Secretary of State directed to be submitted at the end of the year has, of course, not yet been submitted. The agitation for reform, however, has been so well directed, and the facts and figures brought to bear upon the subject throw so clear a light on the pervading darkness, that official supineness has for once been shaken off, and action has been taken to remedy the evil so loudly complained of. But the action, as we have said above, is partial and one-sided and quite falls short of the requirements of the case.

Two main questions which concern Assam, are the relations between coolies and planters, and the health of coolies on plantations. The other two, which specially affect Bengal, are the prevention of abuses connected with recruitment, and the provision of sanitary arrangements for coolies *en route* to Assam. We have seen that the new Act as being that of the Bengal Council and thus unable to deal with anything concerning Assam, is necessarily one-sided. Nothing short of comprehensive Supreme Legislation can cope with the evil in its entirety, and even the Bengal Act falls far short of the standard that it might reasonably be expected to attain. Whatever may be said of the sanitary aspect of the present measure its safeguards against the recruiter's tactics and the contractor's trade instincts are decidedly weak and can be accounted for only by a laudable desire of the authorities not to "cause inconvenience and expense to the planters of Assam," to use the words of the despatch itself.

As to Assam no legislative amendment is deemed necessary, because everything is gratuitously and in the face of proved facts supposed to be in order there. No importance whatever is attached to the representations which were made by different public bodies on the subject. Speaking of these representations the Despatch says:

Various charges were brought against the system of emigration in force under Act I. of 1882. The system of recruiting was especially singled out for attack; it was stated that the labourers were ignorant and helpless, and easily induced by false hopes and delusive promises to enter into contracts; and that the manner in which the contract was explained to the coolies was a mere form. The conditions of life in the gardens were described to be most unsatisfactory, and the high death-rate and low birth-rate were especially noticed. Cases of hard treatment of coolies by the planters were said to be common, and it was alleged that some of the provisions of the law for the protection of the tea-labourers was systematically violated.

It has not been possible to deny, and the Despatch does not deny, that mortality among unfortunate coolies is not high and the birth rate is not low and that cases of terrible hardship are frequent. We are still solemnly assured that so far as the working of the Act within Assam was concerned, there is no grave reason for anticipating the time determined for the submission of a special report on the working of the Act, and that there is now cause to believe that in the two most important points, the relations between employers and labourers, and the health of the garden coolies matters are, on the whole, satisfactory and improving. If corroboration of the allegations of the Indian Association were necessary it would be amply found in our newspaper columns and in the records of our law courts. The Government is hardly justified in drawing the conclusion that it has thought fit to do only from the rose-colored official reports, which the Despatch shortly recapitulates.

With regard to Bengal, however, such a summary disposal has not been found possible:—

Turning now to Bengal, we are constrained to admit that the Act has worked less satisfactorily. Abuses exist in the system of recruiting, and sanitary arrangements *en route* are defective. Early in 1888 and before the receipt of the letter from the Indian Association, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal had specially deputed a police officer to inquire into serious charges which had been made of recruitment by force or fraud for service in the labour-districts, and had also been considering the necessity of adopting legislative measures in the interests of sanitation in connection with an outbreak of cholera among coolies on their way to Assam. Sir Stewart Bayley was of opinion that some change in the law was demanded, inasmuch as the object of Act I. of 1882 had to a large extent been frustrated under the system of the emigration which is permitted by Section 7 of the Act. The Lieutenant-Governor suspected that malpractices in the shape of abduction by force or fraud were not infrequent, pointed out that no thoroughly efficacious provision could be made for the sanitary protection of the free emigrants under the present enactment, and expressed an opinion that, so far as its operation in Bengal was concerned, the law required amendment. We are disposed to agree that a case has been made out for introducing reforms in the system of recruitment, and for establishing more efficient sanitary control over free emigrants on their way to Assam.

Small as may be the measure of reforms conceded to Bengal, we owe them entirely we feel, to the sympathetic attitude of the ruler of these provinces, the probable absence of which in the case of Assam will furnish a plausible explanation of the adverse conclusion arrived at with regard to it. Those who know the facts know that the case for Assam is much stronger on both the points suggested in the despatch and we are not a little surprised that no action, not even prompt executive interference, should have been considered necessary. Another likely explanation is that action in Assam would unmistakably imply condemnation of the planters, whereas action in Bengal only means condemnation of the native recruiter. We for ourselves, however, regard this latter explanation as unjust and are not prepared to give it credence. The despatch is at great pains to inform the Secretary of State that long before complaints were made on the subject by any public body, special inquiries were made by the Government of Bengal into abuses connected with recruitment. If the Government is anxious to take to itself all the credit of the enquiries which resulted in the important discoveries embodied in the despatch, let it have it by all means, so long as we have all that we want, namely comprehensive legislation that will cure the evil and the whole of it. A stop-gap measure will not meet the requirements of the case.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN ON THE WANTS OF INDIA.

WHEN Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji recently addressed a large Glasgow audience on the Wants of India, Sir William Wedderburn, late of the Bombay Civil Service, who is one of the sincere friends and well-wishers of the people of this country, made some thoughtful and interesting observations upon the same subject. A report of Sir William's speech has been published in the columns of the *North British Daily Reporter*. He began by expressing his earnest desire to follow in the footsteps of his late lamented and distinguished brother, Sir David Wedderburn, who took a deep interest in all matters relating to India and the Colonies. Sir William declared that the great political lesson which his long Indian career had taught him was that as sound liberal principles were good in England, so they were good to the people of India. He said:—"If they were good for use at home, they were also good for use abroad. The application of sound doctrine did not depend upon climate or upon race. Twice two made four at the equator as well as at the pole, and a policy of justice and humanity and equal laws was as suitable to the meridian of Calcutta as it was to the meridian of Greenwich." It is, however, idle to expect the average Anglo-Indian to subscribe to the sound principle laid down by Sir William Wedderburn. The Indian bureaucrat has convinced himself that Asiatics should be governed

asiatically. Indeed, a distinguished lawyer who once filled the position of Legal Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council and is now one of Her Majesty's Judges at home has, to the disgust of all right-minded Englishmen, propounded the strange doctrine that in dealing with Oriental peoples the recognised principles of morality are not binding on England. We need scarcely say that this novel doctrine has, for obvious reasons, found ready acceptance in the ranks of Anglo-Indian officialdom.

This being the case, it is for the British public to decide whether India is to be governed according to Asiatic notions or according to the sound principles of justice, humanity and equal laws which are recognised in Great Britain. The misfortune, however, is that the great British nation does not care to discharge its duties and responsibilities to their Indian fellow-subjects. Sir William Wedderburn observed:—"The sins of the British people towards the people of India were many, but he was glad to say that the sins were those of omission rather than those of commission. What the British people had done for India had been good as far as it had gone. But unfortunately they had practically left the management of this great trust to the care of official agents, whose interests were antagonistic to the people of India and the people of this country. They all knew very well in this country, where the taxpayers were the masters, how difficult it was to control the official who are the tax-eaters. They knew how difficult it was to deal with those great spending departments, and they found that they were not able with all their Parliamentary power to force them to do their duty to the people, to exercise that economy which should be exercised in the interests of the taxpayers. What could they expect when the situation was entirely reversed: when the tax-eaters were the sole masters and the duty of the tax-payers was only to obey? The natural result of that was that the Government was administered not for the benefit of the people of India, but for the benefit of the civil and military service of the Crown. He would tell them that some of the results were—very high salaries, ambitious, extravagant and unjust, such as that of Burma. Another result was the grinding taxation of the poor and extreme poverty among the whole body of the people. When he told them that the average income of the Indian was a penny half-penny per day that gave some idea of what their taxable resources were. What could they take out of a man whose average income was a penny half-penny per day? They took out of them almost double what they took out of us. The taxation of India was in proportion twice as heavy as that in Great Britain." We commend these sensible observations to those who are never tired of telling us that India is a lightly-taxed country. As a matter of fact, the taxation of a poor country like India is double that of a rich country like England; and yet our Anglo-Indian friends would have us believe that the taxation of India is very light. We are exceedingly sorry to find that Sir William Wedderburn condemns the Salt-tax. We have always protested against tampering with this excellent source of revenue on humanitarian grounds. We admit that it is contrary to the abstract principles of political economy to tax a necessary of life. But does not England, the great apostle of Free trade, tax tea which is a necessary of life with the English people? The salt-tax is peculiarly suited to the circumstances of India. It is levied with perfect ease and facility; it involves no inquisitorial inquiry and causes no irritation, annoyance or oppression in its collection; so much so that the people hardly know that they pay a tax on the salt they eat. Then the poorer classes of the people ought to make some contribution towards the cost of the Government which gives them protection, and the salt tax which is practically a capitation tax is certainly the least objectionable impost that can be devised for that purpose. To sacrifice such a source of revenue on sentimental grounds is simple folly.

After pointing out that the British people are the arbiters of the destinies of their Indian fellow-subjects, Sir William Wedderburn proceeded to explain how they can discharge their duties and responsibilities with regard to the

teeming and dumb millions of India. The task is no doubt a very difficult one and the British people might well ask "how are we to perform this trust, how are we to discharge our duty?" Sir William Wedderburn said:—"He knew they had all the struggle of daily life, and they had their own political and municipal affairs, and how were they ever to find time to learn about India? How could they reasonably discharge this duty that lay upon them? It seems almost an impossibility that the people of Great Britain could ever discharge this duty, but he was glad to say that there was a hope and there was a means. That hope arose from one of those great deeds towards India which he had said the British people had the honour of occasionally bestowing upon the Indian people. Among all the gifts they had conferred there was none greater than the gift of education. The millions of India had long been dumb. They now for a generation had given them education, and he was glad to say that they had now found a voice, but they were speaking in very inarticulate tones through an Indian National Congress." The Resolutions passed at the four Congresses which have hitherto been held tell the British public in plain and emphatic terms what reforms are required in the existing system of Indian administration. The electors of Northampton, acting under the guidance of their junior representative, Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, have pledged themselves to the introduction of these reforms. The changes demanded are so moderate and reasonable that there are no good grounds why the demand should not be complied with. But nothing can be done until the British people insist through their representatives in the House of Commons that the well-founded grievances of their Indian fellow-subjects shall be redressed.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

SIR COMER PETHERAM has not gone up to Darjiling, but is staying at Kurseong. The less severe climate of the place will suit the weak state of his health better, and we are glad to learn that he is making perceptible improvement every day.

THE High Court is now closed for Easter holidays and does not open till Wednesday next. Most of the leading Barristers are away to the hills. The heat is already intolerable and there is no knowing what is in store for us in May and June, unless we have some timely showers. The old question of having morning *Kuchery* as in the mufassil, is being feebly mooted with, of course, the usual success.

THE House of Commons adjourned until the 29th instant for the Easter Recess.

THE Sikkim and Hazara Expedition Honors have been gazetted. There is no native name in the list.

MR. ALBERT Bright, the Liberal-Unionist candidate of Birmingham has been elected for Central Birmingham by a majority of 3,000 votes. We repeat our hope that sympathy with India will run in the Bright family.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, in reply to a question, said that the statement made by the *Daily News* that Persia had ceded Kilat-i-Nadir to Russia is untrue. So we thought at the time when the announcement was made. It was very unlikely that Persia would court the wrath of England by unaccountably parting with one of the most important strongholds in the realm.

RISE in the price of rice is steady all through Lower Bengal and we are much concerned to hear that in the Sub-Division of Diamond Harbour actual scarcity prevails and cases of starvation have already occurred. The local Board is doing all it can by opening small relief works, but more comprehensive measures are at once required.

WE welcome our contemporary of the *Hindu* in its new character as a daily and wish it all success in the venture. It is one of the best conducted papers of the Southern Presidency and is characterised by ability, moderation and independence alike.

REPORTS of destructive fires have been received from Nagpore and Samastipore. A lakh of rupees worth of goods has been consumed at the railway station at the former place and the loss, we are told, falls upon the G. I. P. and Bengal Nagpore Railway Companies.

CALCUTTA is not the only city that neglects its sanitation and encourages the spread of preventible diseases. Typhoid fever and diphtheria have become so prevalent in many parts of Australia that it has become necessary to take vigorous measures to check them. At a late meeting of the Medical Congress in Melbourne it was pointed out that the death-rate of cases of typhoid fever in that city was 40 per 100, and of those from diphtheria 50 per 100, which is larger than in any other country where these diseases prevail. The prevalence of the diseases in Melbourne is attributed to a large lagoon at the east of the town, into which the sewage of the city runs, and also to the deficient drainage and water supply in other parts. Mr. Cunningham and his friends might find profitable work in the "pastures" new of the colonies.

So the complaint said to have been recorded against the venerable leader of the Native Bar in the proceedings of a Suburban public meeting was all a myth. So thought every one who had any knowledge of the veracious character of the Billingsgate Virago who gave currency to the report. The injured veteran bears, we know, with philosophic fortitude, the stings of the malicious biting-bugs of society. As regards the drowsy growl about ourselves we would dismiss it with a story. Once upon a time a bumptious minnow, dressed fantastically in motley, with a pointed cap on his head, thus addressed in highfalutin style the Triton as he was coming out of his golden palace: 'Thou hast no legs to stand upon. Thou livest upon thy father's charity.' For a moment the Triton was taken by surprise; but casting his eyes upon the daft figure before him, he smiled, as he recognised the churlish cad in his characteristic cap, blew his 'wreathed horn' to soothe the turbulent waves, and rode away. He might have muttered:

"Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell."

THE English Budget of the year shows a surplus for the past year of £2,790,000, which is swallowed up by the surrender of local taxation and the increased naval outlay. The National Debt has been reduced by £7,500,000. The total expenditure for the ensuing year is estimated at £86,966,000, and the revenue at £85,000,000, being a deficit of £1,966,000. The increase in expenditure is due to the increased Army and Navy estimates. Mr. Goschen proposes to convert the deficit into a surplus of £180,000 by using £1,000,000 out of £1,500,000 saved by the conversion of Consols; by increasing the death duties one per cent. on estates over £10,000 in value, and by increasing the duty on beer by one-fourteenth of a penny per gallon. Mr. Goschen regrets that he is unable to abolish the duty on silver plate, and adverted to the vast consumption of Indian tea and the general improvement in the trade of the country. He proposes shortly to introduce a separate Bill dealing with the light gold coinage.

REUTER telegraphs:—"Mr. Gorst, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that he would direct the attention of Lord Lansdowne to the political character of the *Calcutta Review*, which was edited by one Mr. Phillips." We do not wonder at it all. Under Mr. Phillips the *Review* has been converted into a political organ and its principles cannot find favour with the

constituted authorities of the land when its best efforts are directed towards estrangement of popular sympathy from Government and bringing to discredit institutions like the High Court. The young lions of the *Review* will now probably take the hint and curb down their blatant spirits a little. It is thought probable that Mr. Philips will be asked to forego his journalistic labours and confine his attention to his legitimate duties.

A STRANGE and sad accident took place on the Northern Bengal Railway on Monday last. The mixed train that left Sara at 2-30 P.M. on nearing a bridge near Muthanagore, 32 miles north of Sara is said to have been literally blown over by a heavy storm that was then raging. This took place at about a quarter past five and all the vehicles except the engine were derailed, most of which found their way into the river. Up to date seven persons are reported to have died and nearly seventy wounded and it is just possible that nothing is known of many more that may have suffered from the accident. We are told that the permanent way was all right and that the staff was to blame no way for the accident. It may be and we presume that it is so. But we cannot help thinking that the narrow-gauge system—the legacy of the Strachey brothers to India—is responsible for accidents of this kind. A heavy load on a narrow base is bound to come to grief and the only wonder is that accidents of this nature have been remarkably rare in a country where strong winds are so prevalent. There has been the usual official enquiry.

JUSTICE NORTH has recently decided that "the customer who sits for the negative puts the power of reproducing the object in the hands of the photographer, and that the photographer who uses the negative to produce other copies for his own use, without authority, is abusing the power confidentially placed in his hands merely for the purpose of supplying the customer." He held that "the bargain between the customer and the photographer includes by implication an agreement that the prints taken from the negative are taken for the use of the customer only." Such a contract, he decided upon the analogy of similar cases, was to be inferred from the nature of the employment. Thus an engraver employed to make plates from drawings, or to make a certain number of copies of a picture, would not be justified in striking off impressions or making additional copies for himself, and if he were to do so an action would lie against him for breach of contract, there being the implied condition that he is not to make any copies for himself. It could be argued in the present case that the property in the glass negative was in the defendant, and that he was only using his own property. But he would not be allowed to do so for an unlawful purpose in breach of faith or in breach of agreement, as in the case of a student who may not publish a lecture to which he has been admitted, even though by his own skill he has taken a shorthand copy of it. A photographer cannot, therefore, do what he likes with the likeness of his customers.

WRITERS in the *Englishman* cannot be expected to be well versed in or intimately acquainted with the growing literature of Bengal. There is, however, much truth in the recent remarks of our contemporary, that Bengali works of fiction have of late been running riot with imagination. The ambition of the average Bengali scribe, as of all scribes indeed, is to write a four anna novelette that will secure enough purchasers to pay the printer's bill. "Book-writing" is in a great measure the work of those that know not how to occupy themselves better, and no wonder that "exaggerated puerility and feebleness" should characterise the bulk of our "dramas, novels and metrical stories." The remark, however, does not apply to the best of our novels, as those acquainted with the works of Babus Bankim Chandra and Ramesh Chandra well know. The portraiture of human character by them will bear favourable comparison to the masters of France and England in their best moods and the whole range of English and French novels will not show

pictures more felicitously conceived or better drawn than those of Bhramar, Prafulla, Surja mukhi, or Saraju.

REGARDING the proposed reform in the constitution of the Supreme Council the *Englishman* says:—

"Too much importance has been attached to the extracts from Lord Dufferin's Despatch on Council reforms which have been published. The essential parts of the Despatch and the Report of the Select Committee are not yet known, and there is reason to believe that the actual recommendations are much more moderate than the native press is taking for granted."

The native press has taken nothing for granted beyond what Lord Lausdowne from his place in the Council has bade them expect, and we take it that they are not unreasonable in doing so, unless the Viceroy counted without His Excellency's host.

THROUGH the laudable exertions of our distinguished townsman Mr. Manackjee Rustomjee, a representative public meeting was held at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday last, and a strong and influential committee was appointed to raise funds in aid of the sufferers from the late disastrous fire at Surat. The Bombay Committee has already got together more than fifty thousand rupees, but the sum is inadequate for the purposes of relief, considering that five thousand houses and a crore of rupees worth of property have been destroyed and twenty five thousand people have been rendered homeless. Funds are urgently required, and the response to the appeal made ought to be prompt. Subscriptions, how ever small, will be thankfully received by Mr. H. M. Rustomjee and Babu Rajkumar Sarvadhikari, the Honorary Secretaries to the Committee.

OUR good friend of the *Statesman* has entirely misunderstood us in our remarks on Sanitary Reforms. The issue about flesh *versus* vegetables was not intended to be and was not raised at all. We confined ourselves to the question of personal cleanliness only. We have good grounds for believing that we have degenerated in this respect under the existing state of affairs, for no nation better understood and appreciated the truth of the teaching that cleanliness is next to godliness than Hindoos of olden times. That the mandates of our *sastras* completely bear us out in our contention will be abundantly clear to any one who reads the extracts from them given in Dr. Gregg's letter. All who know our society as it *was* and *is*, know this to be so.

THE accelerated Bombay Special had its trial of eight weeks, and having proved a financial failure has been stopped in accordance to the original arrangement. It is childish, if not ungenerous, to pretend that the Government ran it only so long as it was at Calcutta and that the Simla Exodus was the signal for its discontinuance. The Government and the Post Office disclaimed all fiscal responsibility from the beginning and gave the mercantile, the corresponding and the travelling communities distinctly to understand that they—and they alone—would have to look to its continuance. If those in whose interests the service was started did not appreciate and support it the Government is not to blame. Acceleration in the speed of the ordinary mails is now demanded. We have an idea that if the unnecessary restrictions about roadside traffic were removed, as we suggested, the special service might have been successful.

MR. SPENCER made his fourth Balloon ascent from the Gas-works on Thursday last. He was accompanied this time by Lieutenant Coningham of the Royal Canadians and the balloon once more descended safe, though not without some difficulty owing to strong wind, in the neighbourhood of Baraset. Lieutenant Coningham took some important observations on behalf of the Meteorological Department, which had provided him with instruments for the purpose. The Balloon Society of England has, we understand, awarded Mr. Spencer its gold medal, for making the first parachute descent in India. Would

there not be a fitness of things in rewarding our intrepid countryman Babu Ram Chandra Chatterjee, the first amateur Balloonist of India and the first Indian Balloonist of the modern times?

At the first sitting of the French Senate as a High Court for the trial of General Boulanger, M. Rochefort and Count Dillon were arraigned in addition to the General. All three were, however, absent from the Court. The Right vigorously obstructed the proceedings, contending that there was no case, but they were overruled by a large majority.

IN concluding his long and able address in defence of Mr. Parnell before the Commission of Enquiry, Sir Charles Russell claimed to have refuted the charges brought against Mr. Parnell and his colleagues in the Land League, and to have cleared the honour of the Irish nation from a foul stain. The Commission has been adjourned till the 30th instant. Mr. Parnell has already risen in public estimation immensely and fresh honors are in store for him. He is to be presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh. Bad sign that, considering that Scots are showing impatience of the arbitrary modes of the British Parliament and are giving unmistakable signs of sympathy with the Irish Home Rule cry.

THERE seems to be a paucity of administrative ability in the ranks of the Civil Service now. It is said that there is no Civil Servant in Calcutta who can replace Sir Henry Harrison in the Municipal Corporation of this city, and that Sir Stuart Bayley, rather than lose the benefits of his services, has adopted the exceptional course of obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State to the grant of a large monthly sum from the Imperial exchequer as a special allowance for Sir Henry Harrison. It was only last year that the legislature fixed the pay of the Chairman of the Municipality at Rs. 2,500 to 3,000 a month, exclusive of house rent, and that time this allowance was deemed to be ample for any administrative talent that the Municipality requires. The sum is equal to the salary of a Divisional Commissioner and more than equal to that of the senior Secretary of the Government, of Bengal and if it does not suffice to secure the services of a duly qualified man for the Municipality, and in the interest of the city Sir Stuart Bayley has been obliged to resort to the exceptional course he has adopted, one is forced to conclude that administrative talent in the Civil Service is now extremely rare. This supposition, however, would not be tenable. In justice to the Service we do really believe that as the sea is said to contain many bigger fish than the biggest that has ever come out of it, so the sea of the Civil Service contains many officers quite as competent as Sir Henry Harrison. It must follow that the exaggerated impression of his capabilities is due more to kindness than to a mature weighing of his deserts. Doubtless he was destined for the Board on the retirement of Mr. Reynolds, but as that promotion could not be carried out owing to the intervention of Mr. Beames, a solatium has been got for him. Many officers of much higher standing and service than Sir Henry, take for instance Mr. Smith, the Presidency Commissioner, has not been fortunate enough to meet with such a consideration. A Persian adage says: 'Have your patron first and then aspire to comforts.' *Murabbi biyar o Murubbi bakhur.*

THE *Englishman* writes:—

Some researches and experiments which have recently been made by medical authorities in the city have brought to light results which are somewhat startling. It has long been known that mustard oil so largely used by Natives of Bengal for cooking their food, is largely adulterated with the oil of the *goonja* seed, a very cheap oil as compared with pure mustard oil. It has been found that this *goonja* oil has a distinct and very irritating effect upon the kidneys, and that its continuous action has the effect of causing a degeneration of that organ, leading in most cases to diabetes. This may account for the great prevalence of this disease among Bengalis. The new Municipal Act gives power to the Corporation to take action in all matters relating to the adulteration of food or drink, and if the facts stated here are true, there can be no doubt that the adulteration of mustard oil should be promptly stopped.

We are perfectly alive to the gravity of the situation but are as perfectly helpless. Every article

of food, in fact every article in use, is adulterated in the track of European civilization and that civilization alone can furnish means of detection and check. The Municipality, let us hope, will make judicious use of the large powers vested in it and do its best to root out the evil.

THE UTS OUTILLS ARE DOOMED. We have received the following from the Reverend Mr. Thomas Evans of Mussorie:

"Both you and your readers will rejoice to know that I have it on the best authority by the last mail from London that the Upas tree which has blighted so many homes in Bengal for the last twelve years—the outstills are doomed to die as soon as possible.

At last the voice crying for reform has been heard in the right quarter, and let us hope that this is but the beginning of a radical reform in the Excise administration of India.

We are thankful to have one head of the hydra lopped off, but there are still more which this Ravana must yield up to the sword of justice, yea, and mercy too."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GIVE US THE TRUTH.

The Christian Union of London, England, says:—Some time since we quoted from the Gloucester Herald an article announcing and describing the complete victory of Warner's SAFE Cure over that terrible malady known as Bright's Disease. The same article was copied into many of the leading papers of England, and in most cases notes were appended stating that its source was above suspicion. Considering the fact that this disease has baffled the best efforts of the medical profession for over fifty years, we were surprised that our exchanges did not consider the matter important enough to call for editorial comment. It seems strange that the Press, supposed to have the interests of the people, and especially the sick ones, at heart, should silently receive the news that a terrible disease had apparently received its deathblow, and been conquered. We thought their silence necessarily cast very grave doubts upon the truthfulness of the statements. We, therefore, proceeded with caution—but at the risk of being the innocent means of advertising a medicine of doubtful efficacy—to call attention to the SAFE Cure, with a statement that one of two things must be true either the wonderful cure for a dread disease has been discovered, or else a set of respectable men had combined with a well-known and reliable paper to swindle the credulous in a very bad way. Our readers will agree with us that it is no small matter to sufferers which of these be the fact. But how is it to be decided? Will the medical profession discuss the matter, analyse the cure, and test its efficacy? Or will the doctors pass it by with the remark that it might be useful in certain peculiar cases? We do not know whether the medical men are doing their duty to the public by analysing and testing this new and pretentious cure, but we do know that the public

are testing it for themselves. As we mentioned a short time since, Mr. J. H. Kilminster, of Kingsholme, Gloucester, had been reclaimed to health by the use of the SAFE Cure, even after his medical advisers could do him no good, and his death was expected at any time. Mr. Kilminster is bandmaster of the 1st Gloucester Engineers, and his case has become widely known, and by his friends his complete recovery is considered little short of a miracle. Mr. John Hope, of 24, Cottingham Street, Sheffield, has received the most marvellous benefits from the use of the SAFE Cure, although two physicians could only succeed in "patching him up a little." Others of our people have taken the SAFE Cure with benefit, and others are now taking it. This is all very well in its way, and no doubt time will see Warner's SAFE Cure more fully established. In the meantime Bright's Disease is killing the people, and the dying patients are afraid to try the remedy unless ordered by that awe-inspiring functionary, the medical man. Looking upon the doctors as ordinary men of business who hate successful opponents just as other business-men do, it is not surprising that they do not receive with open arms the nostrums of all who force so-called specifics upon the public; but we, as an advanced nation, expect more from our medical men. We like to think of them as a band of warriors drawn up to frustrate the ravages of disease, and to weaken the common enemy at every available point, and by every conceivable means. What a sorry spectacle an army would present if each officer and soldier were to look with jealousy upon the attempts of all others to crush the opposing forces! Let a man who may be deemed the perfection of insignificance invent an appliance or method to aid in the destruction of his fellowman in war, and his attempt will be gratefully acknowledged by the War Office, as an encouragement, whether it be promising of good or not; and if his invention should prove, upon examination, to be of real value, his name will be made for ever, while those who use his weapons will be untiring in the sound of his praise. But the inventor of a new kind of ammunition to be used in the war against disease has no tribunal by which the efficacy of his discovery may be tried and judged. In most cases, whether it be good or bad, it is met by those who ought to be capable of judging and testing with a few doubting and slighting remarks. There are, however, some who will give an honest opinion even against their own interests, as witness the large number of the more intelligent physicians who are gradually being won over to acknowledge the merits of Warner's SAFE Cure. The remedy can be procured of all Chemists, and at the Bazaars, or of Ballantine and Co., Bombay and Calcutta; price 4s. 6d. per bottle. Write Ballantine and Co. for 32 page illustrated pamphlet, which will be sent free, post paid.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY.—In cases of DEBILITY and Defective Nutrition, the use of this celebrated Oil has been attended with remarkably beneficial results. Rowlands Dalton, Esq., District Medical Officer, Bury St Edmunds, writes:—"In giving my opinion on Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, I have no hesitation in saying that I have not the slightest confidence in any other kind. The effects of Dr. de Jongh's Oil are sure and most remarkable, especially in that broken-down state of health and strength, which usually precedes and favours tubercular deposit; and I never recommend any other sort. The Oil I have had from you was for my own use and it has certainly been the only means of saving my life on two occasions; and even now, when I feel 'out of condition' I take it, and like it, unmixed with any thing, as being the most agreeable way. I could wish that Dr. de Jongh's Oil would come into general use, and entirely supersede the Pale and other worthless preparations." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co, 210, High Holborn, London.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—April 17, 1889.

GENERAL.—Mr H C Streetfield, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bhagulpore, is transferred to Patna, and is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Barh, Sub-Division of that District.

The following appointments are made in the Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion :—

The Rev. Thomas Borradaile Speedy, B.A., to be Honorary Chaplain; The Rev. Victor Verlinden, S. J., to be Honorary Roman Catholic Chaplain; Lieutenant Edwin Morris Lewis to be Honorary Paymaster; Mr Edward Frank Longley to be Honorary Lieutenant and Quarter-Master.

Baboo Tara Prasunno Acharya, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshaye, is transferred to Patna, and is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Serajgunge Sub-Division of that District.

Lieutenant H B Spooner, Calcutta Volunteer Rifle Corps, is allowed leave of absence for eight months, with effect from the 1st April 1889.

Mr C J O'Donnell, C.S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 29th March, 1889.

Mr J Crawford, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Patna, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Gya, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr J F Stevens, or until further orders.

Mr J Tweed, District and Sessions Judge, Shahabad, is appointed to act, until further orders, as District and Sessions Judge of Patna.

The services of Mr J F Stevens, District and Sessions Judge, Gya, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Baboo Mukoonda Deb Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ulooberiah, Howrah, is allowed leave for three months, under section 128 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 2nd instant.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—The undermentioned Municipal Commissioners of the town of Furriddpore are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Municipal Bench at Furriddpore and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class :—

Babus Purna Chunder Mozumdar, Mohendra Chunder Bagchi, and Sarat Chunder Dass.

Babu Tara Prasunno Acharya Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Serajgunge, Patna is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Mr R. S. T Mac Ewen, Barrister-at-Law, Second Judge, Small Cause Court, Calcutta, is allowed furlough for nine months, under section 50 of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 17th instant.

Babu Menu Lal Chatterji, Subordinate Judge of Sarun, is allowed leave for two months and twenty-three days, under section 73-1 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Nilmoni Das, Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge of Patna, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Sarun, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Menu La Chatterji, or until further orders.

Babu Nilmoni Das is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognisable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 500 within the local limits of the Chupra Munsiff.

Babu Jadu Nath Dass, Subordinate Judge of Patna, is appointed to act as Small Cause Court Judge, in addition to his present duties, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Nilmoni Das, or until further orders.

Babu Karunamoy Bannerji, Munsiff of Bongong, in the District of Jessore, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Patna, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Jadu Nath Dass, or until further orders.

Babu Abhoy Churn Nag, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff, in the District of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Bongong, during the absence on deputation, of Babu Karunamoy Bannerji, or until further orders.

Moulvi Sarfaraz Hossein Khan, an Honorary Magistrate of the Bench at Jhaugange, in the District of Patna, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Mr. W. Tyrell of his appointed as an Honorary Magistrate of the Howrah Bench.

Mr. J. L. Simpson is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Howrah Bench, and vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

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Babu Khogendra Nath Mitter, Deputy Magistrate, Monghyr, is vested with powers under section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Mr. A. D. Allan of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Howrah Bench.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Mr. W. F. Mitchell of his appointment of Honorary Magistrate, of the Bench at Howrah.

Mr. W. F. Mitchell is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Regular Bench at Alipore, in the District of the 24-Per-gunnahs, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Mr. H. Millett, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta reported his departure from India on furlough on the 3rd instant.

Babu Ram Gopal Ghose, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Noakhooly, to be ordinarily stationed at Lakhipore, vice Babu Nibaran Chunder Bannerji, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment.

Babu Ahsu Tosh Bannerji, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Mymensingh, to be ordinarily stationed at Hosseinpore, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Uma Churn Kar, or until further orders.

Babu Devendra Bijoy Bose, M. A. B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Dinagepore, to be ordinarily stationed at Ranigunge, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Soshi Bhusan Chatterji, or until further orders.

The privilege leave for one month under rule 2, section 73 of the Civil Leave Code, granted to Babu Upendra Chunder Mulck, Subordinate Judge of Tirhut, under the order of the 2nd August last, commuted to leave under rule 1 of the same section of the Code.

Grant of leave to Munsiffs—Babu Uma Churn Kar, Second Munsiff of Hosseinpore, in the District of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month, viz., thirteen days under section 73, rule 3 chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, and the remaining period under section 73, rule 1 of the same Code, with effect from the 18th April, 1889, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Soshi Bhusan Chatterji, Munsiff of Raigunge, in the District of Dinagepore, is allowed leave for one month, under section 73, rule 1, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 27th April, 1889, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

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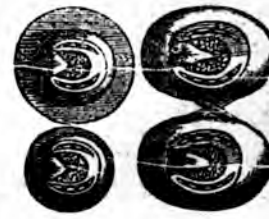
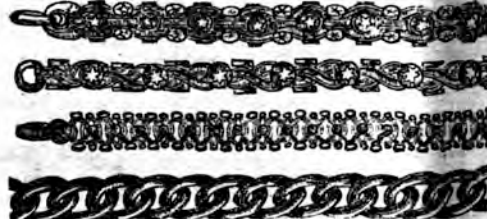
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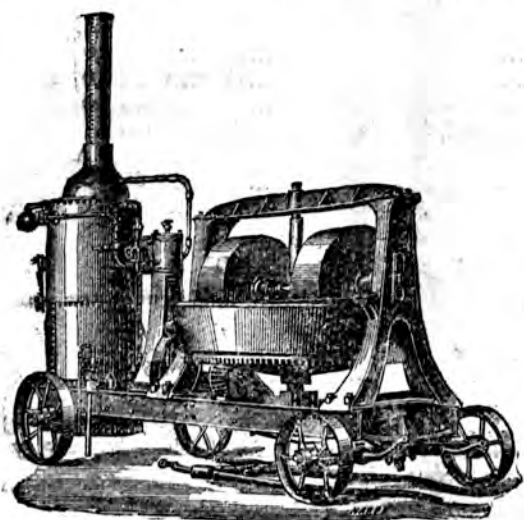
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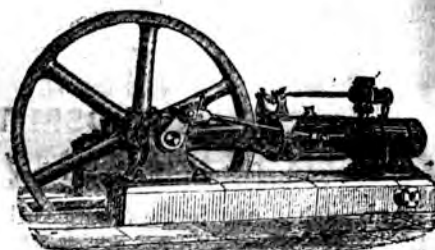
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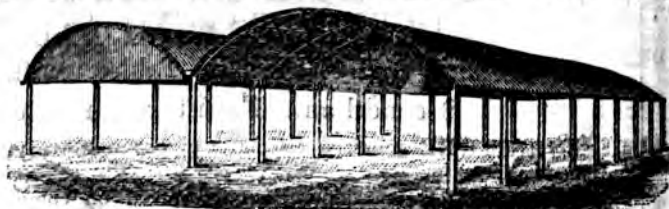
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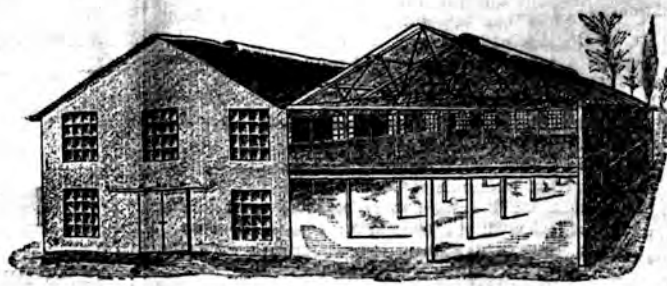
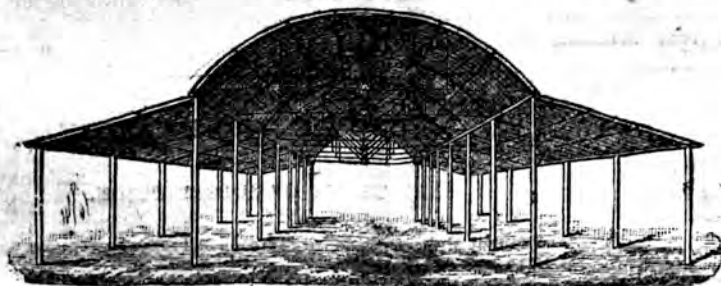
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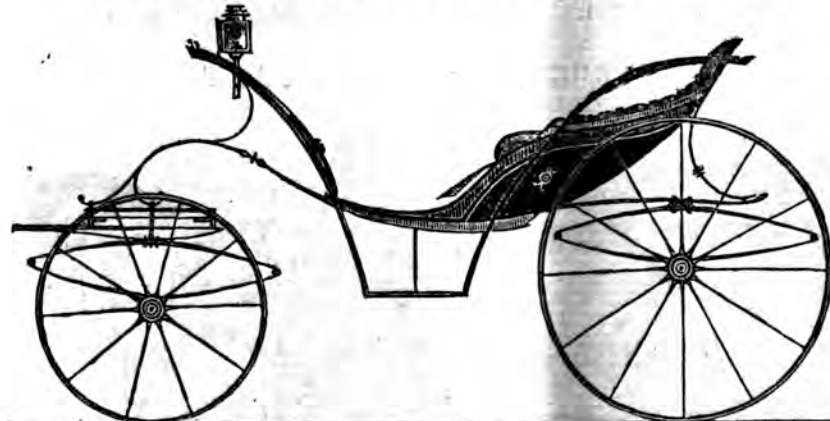
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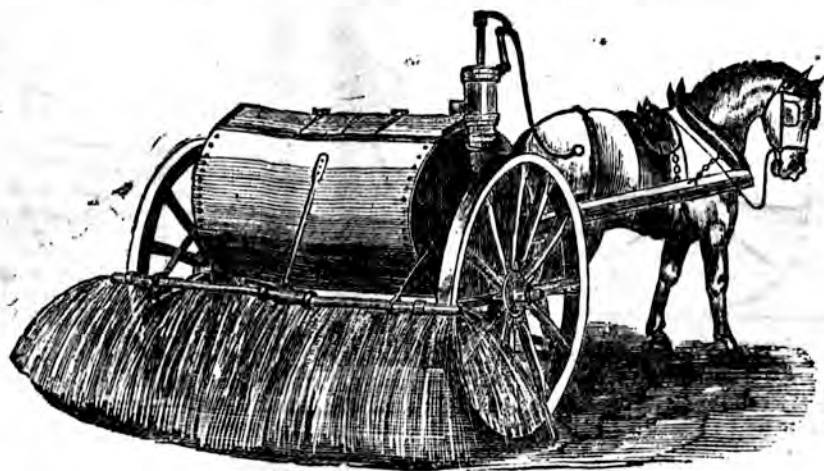
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বাবু বলদেব পালিত, বাঁকিপুর। শরৎ চন্দ্র মুখোপাধ্যায় হেডমাস্টার, ক্যানিংকলেজ, লক্ষ্মী, চন্দ্র নারায়ণ গুপ্ত ডি: মাজিষ্ট্রেট, হুমকা, চারুচন্দ্র চট্টোপাধ্যায় ডি: ইনস্পেক্টর, বীরভূম, জলিতমোহন বাগচী, গারোইল, শ্যামাপদ ঘোষ L. M. S. মধুপুর, খগেন্দ্র নারায়ণ চৌধুরী লক্ষীপুর, ধুবড়ী, গিরীশচন্দ্র ঘোষ ডি: রেজিষ্টার লক্ষ্মী, গোপালচন্দ্র ঘোষ, চাইবাসা, যোগেন্দ্রনাথ গাঙ্গুলী গোলাঘাট, নীলরত্ন মুখোপাধ্যায় উকীল, রাঢ়ী, গোবিন্দমোহন রায়, কাকীনিয়া রাজবাড়ী বিপিন বিহারী গুপ্ত এম. এ, প্রফেসর প্রেসিডেন্সি কলেজ, রামবন্ধু চট্টোপাধ্যায় লছমনপুর, রাজেন্দ্র নারায়ণ রায় ডি: মাজিষ্ট্রেট জলপাইগুড়ী, গঙ্গানারায়ণ রায় ডি: কলেজের সওকান, ত্রীনাথ চট্টোপাধ্যায় ডি: কলেজের দারভাঙ্গা, R. D. D. Bhattacharji M. D.

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